

MARINES IN KOREA



After bombing and strafing North Korean and Chinese Communist troop positions, the pilot of an F4U Corsair of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing hunts out a suitable target for his remaining napalm tank.



Pilots of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on board a carrier off the coast of Korea warm up their Corsair fighter-bombers in preparation for their mission.



Casualties of the 1st Marine Regiment in Korea are carried from the front line by helicopter. This aerial ambulance service enabled wounded personnel to reach a rear-area hospital in less than an hour after being hit.



The McDonnell F2H2P Banshee was the jet aircraft used by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to photograph the enemy installations around the Yalu River, Korea. The plane offered both speed and the ability to stay airborne for long periods.



Marine MSgt Calvin Duke, who was the oldest Marine enlisted pilot in Korea, smiled as he recalled his brush with two Communist MIG's while flying an unarmed Marine Banshee jet on a photo mission over Chosin Reservoir. He described the incident as "one of the tightest spots I've ever been in since I've been flying". Master Sergeant Duke, who wore the Distinguished Flying Cross and seven air medals, had been flying almost 13 years.

AIR WAR

FLYING MARINES: Crucial to the success of Marines in the Korean War was the effective implementation of air assets. Building on hard earned experiences in WWII, the Marine air-ground team continued to demonstrate to the world the advantages of tightly integrated air power with ground forces. From the first use of helicopters in a theater of war to the introduction of jets in combat, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was an innovator in the tactical use of air power.

For more information about Marines in the Korean War visit our web site at www.history.usmc.mil